

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is in independent form and has been amended hereby. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,888,837 (“Cunningham”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,016,980 (“Mayer”).

Amended independent Claim 1 recites a routing information storage module for storing domain routing information corresponding to each of said two or more domains. Further, Claim 1 recites acquiring the source domain of the packet by referring to the domain definition module with the receiving interface name, and acquiring destination domain by referring to routing information storage module with the destination address. Furthermore, Claim 1 recites judging whether communications between the domains is permitted or not for the relay on the basis of the inter-domain communicability field which is held in the inter-domain communication definition module. It is respectfully submitted that Cunningham and Mayer, alone or in any possible combination, fail to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of Claim 1.

The Office Action concedes that Cunningham fails to teach or suggest judging whether communication is permitted, and cites Mayer at col. 5, lines 17-38 as teaching said relay control unit judging whether communication between the domains is permitted or not for the relay on the basis of said inter-domain communicability field which is held in said inter-domain communication definition module.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Cunningham and Mayer, alone or in any possible combination, fails to teach or suggest at least acquiring the source domain of the

packet by referring to the domain definition module with the receiving interface name, and acquiring a destination domain by referring to a routing information storage module with the destination address, and judging whether communication between the domains is permitted or not, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Cunningham and Mayer, alone or in any possible combination.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: FUJY 18.546 (100794-11681)  
PCF:fd